

Serial Number: 09/546502
Art Unit: 3643

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 37, 38, 40 and 41 as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line comprising:

a body including a receptacle having inwardly directed extensions, an open first end leading to the receptacle and an opposing second end;

the receptacle capable of receiving therein and the extensions impinging thereagainst the end segment; and

[a coupler attached to the body that is capable of engaging and supporting a lure, the coupler comprising] a pair of resilient hooks attached to the second end of the body and disposed in an overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which a lure is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart and threading one of the hooks into and through a hook eye of the lure.

3. (Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extensions are directed away from [an] the open first end of the body leading to the receptacle.

37. (Amended) Apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pair of resilient hooks extend away from [an] the second end of the body opposing the open first end of the body.

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38. (Amended) Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line comprising:

a body including a receptacle having inwardly directed extensions, an open first end leading to the receptacle and an opposing second end;

the receptacle capable of receiving therein and the extensions impinging thereagainst the end segment; and

[a coupler attached to the body that is capable of engaging and supporting a lure, the coupler comprising] a pair of opposing plates attached to the second end of the body and biased together and prongs carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure.

40. (Amended) Apparatus of claim 38, wherein the extensions are directed away from [an] the open first end of the body leading to the receptacle.

41. (Amended) Apparatus of claim 40, wherein the pair of opposing plates extend away from [an] the second end of the body opposing the open first end of the body.

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Clean copy of amended claims 1, 3, 37, 38, 40 and 41:

1. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line comprising:

a body including a receptacle having inwardly directed extensions, an open first end leading to the receptacle and an opposing second end;

D1 the receptacle capable of receiving therein and the extensions impinging thereagainst the end segment; and

a pair of resilient hooks attached to the second end of the body and disposed in an overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which a lure is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart and threading one of the hooks into and through a hook eye of the lure.

D2 3. Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extensions are directed away from the open first end of the body leading to the receptacle.

D3 37. Apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pair of resilient hooks extend away from the second end of the body opposing the open first end of the body.

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38. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line comprising:

a body including a receptacle having inwardly directed extensions, an open first end leading to the receptacle and an opposing second end;

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Claim.

the receptacle capable of receiving therein and the extensions impinging thereagainst the end segment; and

a pair of opposing plates attached to the second end of the body and biased together and prongs carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure.

40. Apparatus of claim 38, wherein the extensions are directed away from the open first end of the body leading to the receptacle.

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41. Apparatus of claim 40, wherein the pair of opposing plates extend away from the second end of the body opposing the open first end of the body.